Remarks

The Office Action mailed November 3, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-29 and 32-47 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-29, and 32-47 stand rejected. Claims 6 and 26 are objected to. Claims 6, 15, 26, 29, 32, 38, and 39 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The rejection of Claims 32-47 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully traversed. Claims 32 and 39 have been amended, and are submitted to be directed to statutory subject matter. Claims 33-38 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 32. Claims 40-47 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 39. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 101 rejection of Claims 32-47 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 32-47 under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have amended Claims 32 and 39. Claims 33-38 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 32. Claims 40-47 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 39. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112 rejection of Claims 32-47 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-29, and 32-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Motley et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0078166 A1) is respectfully traversed.

Motley et al. describe a system for integrating a network-based tool. When a product has been selected, the system requests information from a user that will allow configuration of a product including a safety switch to meet the user's needs (paragraph 7, paragraph 22). When the user completes product selection and configuration and indicates a desire to submit an order, the system saves to a PC-based application a copy of a bill of material that has been submitted (paragraph 7). The system uses list price information of the product to generate a quotation for each selected safety switch configuration including indicated features and accessories (paragraph 27).

Claim 1 recites a method for using a computer network-based system including a server coupled to a centralized database and at least one client system, the method comprising

the steps of "accessing a product configurator system; selecting switchgear product configurations related to a parallel switchgear system from a plurality of user interfaces; receiving a bill of material and a price quotation corresponding to the parallel switchgear system; and automatically generating, via the product configurator system, an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system."

Motley et al. does not describe or suggest a method for using a computer network-based system as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Motley et al. does not describe or suggest automatically generating, via the product configurator system, an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system. Rather, Motley et al. describe saving to a PC-based application a copy of a bill of material that has been submitted. Motley et al. also describe generating a quotation for each selected safety switch configuration including indicated features and accessories by using list price information of a product. Accordingly, Motley et al. does not describe or suggest automatically generating an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Motley et al.

Claims 2-5 and 7-14 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-5 and 7-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-5 and 7-14 are also patentable over Motley et al.

Claim 15 recites a system comprising "a parallel switchgear system; a device; a computer server connected to said device via a computer network and configured to receive user specifications and selected configurations; and a product configurator system configured to: receive user specifications and user selected configurations; generate a drawing and a quotation; receive, via a single graphical user interface, selections of multiple configurations for a size of an equipment of the parallel switchgear system; and automatically generate an electrical schematic based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system."

Motley et al. does not describe or suggest a system as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, Motley et al. does not describe or suggest a product configurator system configured to automatically generate an electrical schematic based on information regarding

the parallel switchgear system. Rather, Motley et al. describe saving to a PC-based application a copy of a bill of material that has been submitted. Motley et al. also describe generating a quotation for each selected safety switch configuration including indicated features and accessories by using list price information of a product. Accordingly, Motley et al. does not describe or suggest a product configurator system as recited in Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is patentable over Motley et al.

Claims 16-25 and 27-29 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-25 and 27-29 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 16-25 and 27-29 are also patentable over Motley et al.

Claim 32 recites a computer-readable medium, comprising "a record of parallel switchgear system configurations of a parallel switchgear system; a plurality of rules configured to match the record against customer submitted selections and configured to generate a particular configuration of the parallel switchgear system, wherein the rules are applied by a computer; and a record of results provided to a user via a graphical user interface from applying the matching rules to the customer submitted selections; selections, received via a single graphical user interface, of multiple configurations for a size of an equipment of the parallel switchgear system; and an electrical schematic automatically generated based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system."

Motley et al. does not describe or suggest a computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 32. More specifically, Motley et al. does not describe or suggest a computer-readable medium including an electrical schematic automatically generated based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system. Rather, Motley et al. describe saving to a PC-based application a copy of a bill of material that has been submitted. Motley et al. also describe generating a quotation for each selected safety switch configuration including indicated features and accessories by using list price information of a product. Accordingly, Motley et al. does not describe or suggest an electrical schematic as recited in Claim 32. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is patentable over Motley et al.

Claims 33-38 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 32. When the recitations of Claims 33-38 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 32, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 33-38 are also patentable over Motley et al.

Claim 39 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium connected to a server coupled to a centralized database and at least one client system via a network, the computer program comprising "a code segment that receives user registration information from a user; a code segment that displays a graphic user interface to the user that selects a configuration of a parallel switchgear system; a code segment that receives selections from the user; a code segment that stores the selections into a centralized database; a code segment that cross-references the selections against a unique identifier; a code segment that provides a drawing and a quotation if the unique identifier matches the selections; and a code segment that generates an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic drawing based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system, wherein said code segment that generates the equipment elevation drawing and the electrical schematic drawing is executed by a computer."

Motley et al. does not describe or suggest a computer program as recited in Claim 39. More specifically, Motley et al. does not describe or suggest a code segment that generates an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic drawing based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system. Rather, Motley et al. describe saving to a PC-based application a copy of a bill of material that has been submitted. Motley et al. also describe generating a quotation for each selected safety switch configuration including indicated features and accessories by using list price information of a product. Accordingly, Motley et al. does not describe or suggest a code segment that generates an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic drawing as recited in Claim 39. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 39 is patentable over Motley et al.

Claims 40-47 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 39. When the recitations of Claims 40-47 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 39, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 40-47 are also patentable over Motley et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-29, and 32-47 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-29, and 32-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motley et al. in view of Spira et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0172002 A1) is respectfully traversed.

Motley et al. is described above.

Spira et al. describe a communications link (504) to a maintenance management systems store (506) with engineering data management (EDM) data for drawings, specifications, tolerances, parts lists, enterprise resource planning (ERP) data with materials and resources costs, and a production plan and maintenance object data with plant hierarchy, maintenance and work orders, maintenance costs, and materials. A condition monitoring data storage (508) is linked through another communication link (510) to digital control systems (512) which perform processes on data at (514) such as process, operating and quality data, log data, archives, non-conforming reports, calibration, control parameters and throughput times.

Claim 1 recites a method for using a computer network-based system including a server coupled to a centralized database and at least one client system, the method comprising the steps of "accessing a product configurator system; selecting switchgear product configurations related to a parallel switchgear system from a plurality of user interfaces; receiving a bill of material and a price quotation corresponding to the parallel switchgear system; and automatically generating, via the product configurator system, an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system."

Neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for using a computer network-based system as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest automatically generating, via the product configurator system, an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system. Rather, Motley et al. describe saving to a PC-based application a copy of a bill of material that has been submitted. Motley et al. also describe generating a quotation for each selected safety switch configuration including indicated features and accessories by using list price information of a product. Spira et al. describe storing engineering data management data for drawings, specifications, tolerances, and parts lists in a maintenance management systems store. Accordingly, neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest automatically generating an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic based on information regarding the

parallel switchgear system. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Motley et al. in view of Spira et al.

Claims 2-5 and 7-14 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-5 and 7-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-5 and 7-14 are also patentable over Motley et al. in view of Spira et al.

Claim 15 recites a system comprising "a parallel switchgear system; a device; a computer server connected to said device via a computer network and configured to receive user specifications and selected configurations; and a product configurator system configured to: receive user specifications and user selected configurations; generate a drawing and a quotation; receive, via a single graphical user interface, selections of multiple configurations for a size of an equipment of the parallel switchgear system; and automatically generate an electrical schematic based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system."

Neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a system as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a product configurator system configured to automatically generate an electrical schematic based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system. Rather, Motley et al. describe saving to a PC-based application a copy of a bill of material that has been submitted. Motley et al. also describe generating a quotation for each selected safety switch configuration including indicated features and accessories by using list price information of a product. Spira et al. describe storing engineering data management data for drawings, specifications, tolerances, and parts lists in a maintenance management systems store. Accordingly, neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a product configurator system as recited in Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is patentable over Motley et al. in view of Spira et al.

Claims 16-25 and 27-29 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-25 and 27-29 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 16-25 and 27-29 are also patentable over Motley et al. in view of Spira et al.

Claim 32 recites a computer-readable medium, comprising "a record of parallel switchgear system configurations of a parallel switchgear system; a plurality of rules configured to match the record against customer submitted selections and configured to generate a particular configuration of the parallel switchgear system, wherein the rules are applied by a computer; and a record of results provided to a user via a graphical user interface from applying the matching rules to the customer submitted selections; selections, received via a single graphical user interface, of multiple configurations for a size of an equipment of the parallel switchgear system; and an electrical schematic automatically generated based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system."

Neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 32. More specifically, neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer-readable medium including an electrical schematic automatically generated based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system. Rather, Motley et al. describe saving to a PC-based application a copy of a bill of material that has been submitted. Motley et al. also describe generating a quotation for each selected safety switch configuration including indicated features and accessories by using list price information of a product. Spira et al. describe storing engineering data management data for drawings, specifications, tolerances, and parts lists in a maintenance management systems store. Accordingly, neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest an electrical schematic as recited in Claim 32. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is patentable over Motley et al. in view of Spira et al.

Claims 33-38 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 32. When the recitations of Claims 33-38 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 32, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 33-38 are also patentable over Motley et al. in view of Spira et al.

Claim 39 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium connected to a server coupled to a centralized database and at least one client system via a network, the computer program comprising "a code segment that receives user registration information from a user; a code segment that displays a graphic user interface to the user that selects a configuration of a parallel switchgear system; a code segment that receives

selections from the user; a code segment that stores the selections into a centralized database; a code segment that cross-references the selections against a unique identifier; a code segment that provides a drawing and a quotation if the unique identifier matches the selections; and a code segment that generates an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic drawing based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system, wherein said code segment that generates the equipment elevation drawing and the electrical schematic drawing is executed by a computer."

Neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer program as recited in Claim 39. More specifically, neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a code segment that generates an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic drawing based on information regarding the parallel switchgear system. Rather, Motley et al. describe saving to a PC-based application a copy of a bill of material that has been submitted. Motley et al. also describe generating a quotation for each selected safety switch configuration including indicated features and accessories by using list price information of a product. Spira et al. describe storing engineering data management data for drawings, specifications, tolerances, and parts lists in a maintenance management systems store. Accordingly, neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a code segment that generates an equipment elevation drawing and an electrical schematic drawing as recited in Claim 39. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 39 is patentable over Motley et al. in view of Spira et al.

Claims 40-47 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 39. When the recitations of Claims 40-47 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 39, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 40-47 are also patentable over Motley et al. in view of Spira et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-29, and 32-47 be withdrawn.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejections of Claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-29, and 32-47 is not a proper rejection. As is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination.

Neither Motley et al. nor Spira et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed combination. Furthermore, in contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Motley et al. with Spira et al. because there is no motivation to combine the references suggested in the cited art itself.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. Ex parte Levengood, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicants' disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicants' disclosure. In re Vaeck, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion or motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.
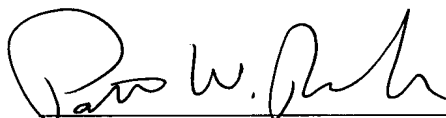
Furthermore, it is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or "template" to piece together the teachings of the cited art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. Specifically, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the art to deprecate the claimed invention. Further, it is impermissible to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art. The present Section 103 rejection is based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patent application publications in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Specifically, Motley et al. teach saving to a PC-based application a copy of a bill of material that has been submitted. Motley et al. also teach generating a quotation for each selected safety switch configuration including indicated features and accessories by using list price information of a product. Spira et al. teach storing engineering data management data for drawings, specifications, tolerances, and parts lists in a maintenance management systems store. Since there is no teaching nor suggestion in the cited art for the combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicants request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-29, and 32-47 be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of 1-5, 7-25, 27-29, and 32-47 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 26 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 6 and 26. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 6 has been amended to include the recitations of independent Claim 1 and the recitations of intervening Claims 4 and 5. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 26 has been amended to include the recitations of independent Claim 15 and the recitations of intervening Claim 25. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 6 and 26 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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